

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of patterning a first resist on a semiconductor wafer using a mask, the method comprising:

- 5        providing a semiconductor substrate having a plurality of semiconductor die;  
      forming a first resist over the semiconductor substrate;  
      reflecting radiation off of the mask to create reflected radiation, wherein the mask  
      comprises:  
          providing a substrate;  
10        forming a reflective stack over the substrate;  
          forming an absorber over the reflective stack;  
          forming a first hardmask layer over the absorber, wherein the first hardmask  
          layer comprises carbon;  
          forming a second hardmask layer over the first hardmask layer, wherein the  
15        second hardmask layer has a thickness no greater than approximately 20  
          nanometers;  
          forming a second resist over the second hardmask layer;  
          patterning the second resist to form a first pattern;  
          transferring the first pattern from the second resist to the second hardmask  
20        layer and the first hardmask layer;  
          removing the second resist;  
          transferring the first pattern from the first hardmask layer and the second  
          hardmask layer to the absorber; and  
          removing the first hardmask layer and the second hardmask layer; and  
25        exposing the first resist to the reflected radiation to form a second pattern in the first  
      resist.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the forming the second hardmask layer over the first  
hardmask layer further comprises forming the second hardmask layer, wherein the second  
30    hardmask layer comprises silicon.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the forming the second hardmask layer over the first hardmask layer further comprises forming the second hardmask layer, wherein the second hardmask layer further comprises oxygen.
- 5 4. The method of claim 2, wherein the forming the second hardmask layer over the first hardmask layer further comprises forming the second hardmask layer, wherein the second hardmask layer further comprises nitrogen.
5. The method of claim 2, wherein the forming the second hardmask layer over the first  
10 hardmask layer further comprises forming the second hardmask layer, wherein the second hardmask layer further comprises silicon and nitrogen.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein the forming the second hardmask layer over the first hardmask layer further comprises forming the second hardmask layer, wherein the second  
15 hardmask layer comprises a material selected from the group consisting of silicon dioxide, silicon nitride, and silicon oxynitride.
7. The method of claim 1, wherein the forming the second hardmask layer over the first hardmask layer further comprises forming the second hardmask layer, wherein the second  
20 hardmask layer is substantially translucent to the reflected radiation.
8. A method of patterning a first resist on a semiconductor wafer using a mask, the method comprising:
- providing a semiconductor substrate having a plurality of semiconductor die;  
forming a first resist over the semiconductor substrate;  
25 reflecting radiation off of the mask to create reflected radiation, wherein the mask comprises:  
providing a substrate;  
forming a reflective stack over the substrate;  
forming an absorber over the reflective stack;  
30 forming a first hardmask layer over the absorber, wherein the first hardmask layer comprises carbon;

- forming a second hardmask layer over the first hardmask layer, wherein the second hardmask layer is substantially translucent to the reflected radiation;
- forming a second resist over the second hardmask layer;
- 5     patterning the second resist to form a first pattern;
- transferring the first pattern from the second resist to the second hardmask layer and the first hardmask layer;
- removing the second resist;
- transferring the first pattern from the first hardmask layer and the second
- 10     hardmask layer to the absorber; and
- removing the first hardmask layer and the second hardmask layer; and
- exposing the first resist to the reflected radiation to form a second pattern in the first resist.
- 15     9. The method of claim 8, wherein the forming the second hardmask layer over the first hardmask layer further comprises forming the second hardmask layer, wherein the second hardmask layer comprises silicon.
10. The method of claim 9, wherein the forming the second hardmask layer over the first
- 20     hardmask layer further comprises forming the second hardmask layer, wherein the second hardmask layer further comprises oxygen.
11. The method of claim 9, wherein the forming the second hardmask layer over the first hardmask layer further comprises forming the second hardmask layer, wherein the second
- 25     hardmask layer further comprises nitrogen.
12. The method of claim 9, wherein the forming the second hardmask layer over the first hardmask layer further comprises forming the second hardmask layer, wherein the second hardmask layer further comprises silicon and nitrogen.
- 30     13. The method of claim 8, wherein the forming the second hardmask layer over the first hardmask layer further comprises forming the second hardmask layer, wherein the second hardmask layer comprises a material selected from the group consisting of silicon dioxide, silicon nitride, and silicon oxynitride.

14. The method of claim 8, wherein the forming the second hardmask layer over the first hardmask layer further comprises forming the second hardmask layer, wherein the second hardmask layer comprises a thickness no greater than approximately 20 nanometers.

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15. A method for fabricating a mask, the method comprising:

providing a substrate;

forming a reflective stack over the substrate;

forming an absorber over the reflective stack;

10 forming a first hardmask layer over the absorber, wherein the first hardmask layer comprises carbon;

forming a second hardmask layer over the first hardmask layer, wherein the second hardmask layer is substantially translucent to the reflected radiation;

15 forming a second resist over the second hardmask layer;

patterning the second resist to form a first pattern;

transferring the first pattern from the second resist to the second hardmask layer and the first hardmask layer;

removing the second resist;

20 transferring the first pattern from the first hardmask layer and the second hardmask layer to the absorber; and

removing the first hardmask layer and the second hardmask layer.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein the forming the second hardmask layer over the first hardmask layer further comprises forming the second hardmask layer, wherein the second hardmask layer comprises silicon.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the forming the second hardmask layer over the first hardmask layer further comprises forming the second hardmask layer, wherein the second hardmask layer further comprises oxygen.

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18. The method of claim 16, wherein the forming the second hardmask layer over the first hardmask layer further comprises forming the second hardmask layer, wherein the second hardmask layer further comprises nitrogen.

19. The method of claim 16, wherein the forming the second hardmask layer over the first hardmask layer further comprises forming the second hardmask layer, wherein the second hardmask layer further comprises silicon and nitrogen.

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20. The method of claim 15, wherein the forming the second hardmask layer over the first hardmask layer further comprises forming the second hardmask layer, wherein the second hardmask layer comprises a thickness no greater than approximately 20 nanometers.

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